

HONORING MARISSA LYNCH

**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Marissa Lynch, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Marissa served as my Deputy Chief of Staff in Indiana during my first and second terms in Congress. In that role, she managed our district offices, improved our constituent outreach programs, and oversaw our Indiana-based staff. Since leaving our office, Marissa started her own consulting company and now has clients around the state.

On a personal note, I admire Marissa's commitment to her faith and family. Marissa works very hard and delivers great results. But, you always have the sense that Marissa's priorities are in the right order. Marissa is a wise advisor and loyal friend.

I want to thank Marissa for her friendship and her hard work in our office. I wish Marissa continued success in all that God has planned for her family.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WITHOUT BORDERS EXHIBIT & "HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM DEFENDER" AWARD CEREMONY**

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2018*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD my speech at yesterday's event, "Human Rights without Borders," organized by the Wei Jingsheng Foundation and the European Union Parliamentary Liaison Office. It was my privilege to receive the "Human Rights and Freedom Defender" award.

We must continue to shine a light on human rights abuses in China. I look forward to working with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to continue to carry the torch for liberty in China and globally.

Thank you all so much for the invitation to this very poignant exhibit, "Human Rights without Borders."

Thank you to Wei Jingsheng as well as Antoine Ripoll of the European Parliament Liaison Office for so graciously hosting this very special event.

Wei, what a pleasure to see you again. I had the honor of hosting him in my district 16 years ago at the Toledo Labor Day Parade, as well as an event at the University of Toledo.

And thank you all for continuing to carry forward the flame of human rights in China, and across the world.

What an honor to receive this reward. I am truly humbled.

I would like to dedicate it to all the freedom fighters in China and across the world that are being detained, tortured, or persecuted due to their pursuit of liberty.

As you all know, human rights and democratic principles are not just for wishful thinking.

These principles are central to our nation's security because we know a more democratic world is a more secure world. We know that countries with strong human rights records

are more prosperous, stable, and reliable partners to build world peace.

Tragically, the Chinese regime has a deeply troubling human rights record.

As we speak, up to one million Uyghur Muslims are languishing in concentration camps in North West China.

At least 321 Tibetans have been detained since 2012, yet heroically continue their struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile, millions of Chinese workers toil away at penny-wages in slave conditions to benefit the Chinese regime and transnational corporations.

There is no freedom of association to form trade unions, leaving the level of occupational disease and injuries alarmingly high. And also prevents oversight of child labor and severe abuse of migrant and ethnic minority workers.

During peak production season, workers are forced to cover 80-175 overtime hours per month with little to no protections, exposed to hazardous chemicals and deadly working conditions.

More than 480 million people in China—one third of its population—live on less than \$2 a day.

The lack of an independent judiciary, independent press, rule of law, and due process raise serious concerns of core principals of fundamental human rights.

With such an ancient and rich culture, the Chinese people deserve better than this brutish and crude oppression.

As Congress debated allowing China into the World Trade Organization, many argued that welcoming China into the world fold would lead to democratization. They said that a middle class would demand their rights.

Instead, we've seen more oppression and a more aggressive Chinese foreign policy that can use its new-found riches to challenge American influence abroad.

China has yet to open its markets to American goods. Our trade deficits have soared, clocking in at over \$375 billion in 2017 alone and despite promises from the Trump Administration to correct this gaping imbalance.

As a result, American workers in Ohio and across the Midwest have lost thousands of jobs to corporate greed and offshoring.

Free trade with China has surely been a one-sided deal.

Just as China shows a blatant disdain for human rights and rule of law in their own country, she tramples upon international law and seeks to overturn the global rules-based order.

As a strategic competitor, she seeks to spread its propaganda and tear down the virtues of democracy. She would seek to replace the blessings of liberty and replace it with its oppressive and dark ideology.

China provides diplomatic cover and assistance to the pariah-state North Korea that threatens global security with nuclear weapons and intercontinental missiles.

China fails to control illicit flows of fentanyl into the United States killing so many unsuspecting victims in my District, Northern Ohio, and across America.

While the United States takes a step back in global leadership and diplomacy, China is too eager to fill the void. We see China investing millions in developing nations in South American and Africa, spreading its undemocratic and tyrannical influence.

We watch as Chinese foreign aid and influence pays dividends in nations as they shift to recognize mainland China over a free and democratic Taiwan.

China seeks to illegally take control of international waters in the South China sea-way and undertakes aggressive naval maneuvers to challenge stability in the region provided by our naval fleet.

China's global strategy and dominance is that of a sleeping dragon. But with its aggressive state-driven Belt and Road Initiative, which will invest \$1 trillion on development projects globally, America can no longer tip-toe around the dragon.

As a Member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, I join my colleagues in the commitment to work to hold China accountable on its deeply disturbing human rights record.

We need to take China's failure to live up to its commitment much more seriously. We need a trade policy that creates jobs in the U.S. And we must continue to check China's revisionist and aggressive foreign policy.

Thank you all again for this great honor, and I look forward to working with you and my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to continue carrying the torch for human rights in China and globally.

**RECOGNIZING DONALD BOST FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION**

**HON. GREG GIANFORTE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2018*

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Bost of Lewistown, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Bost was a member of the U.S. Navy Seabees Mobile Construction Battalion 58 in 1968 and 1969. For his service in Vietnam, he earned the National Defense Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal.

In Lewistown, Mr. Bost has been a steadfast contributor to numerous community and veteran projects. He is the Commander of American Legion Fergus Post 16 and has donated countless hours working on the Veterans Memorial Park and various events.

As an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce for 34 years, Mr. Bost helped boost the area's economy by working to establish the Nexus Treatment Center and Western Transportation Institute facilities in Lewistown. He readily participates in more than a dozen local business, civic, and veteran organizations, and his involvement with local historic attractions helps keep the area's tourism industry vibrant.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Donald Bost for his dedication and service.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW RALEIGH, N.C. HEADQUARTERS OF ADVANCE AUTO PARTS, INC.**

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 11, 2018*

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Advance Auto Parts, Inc. on the recent relocation of its headquarters to Raleigh, N.C.

I am proud that for the second straight year in a row North Carolina has topped Forbes' "Best States for Business" list. Our well-educated workforce and low taxes continue to attract valuable businesses to the region from all